

REMARKS

This application pertains to a novel pressure-sensitive adhesive which adheres well to polar plastic surfaces, metal surfaces and glass surfaces, yet adheres only weakly or not at all to paper, paperboard or human skin.

Claims 1-19 are pending.

The claims have now been amended to limit the diols to those having molecular weights less than or equal to 1000, and the triols to those having molecular weights equal to or greater than 1000.

Claims 1-3, 6, 10-15 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grindley (GB 1216672) in view of Ganster (US 6,191,216). The Examiner views Grindley as disclosing pressure-sensitive urethane adhesives comprising triols having a molecular weight of greater than 1000 and diols having a molecular weight less than 1000 and made at a NCO/OH ratio of 1/1; as well as disclosing aliphatic and aromatic diisocyanates. The Examiner then turns to Ganster for a teaching that aliphatic diisocyanates are preferable to aromatic diisocyanates for adhesives that contact the skin, and also for a teaching of bismuth catalysts. From this, the Examiner concludes that it would be obvious to use Ganster's aliphatic diisocyanate and bismuth catalyst for Grindley's adhesive, and that this presumably would lead to Applicants' novel adhesives.

Grindley does not, however, teach or suggest anything at all about the reaction of a polyisocyanate with a combination of diols having a molecular weight of

equal or less than 1000 and triols having a molecular weight of equal to or greater than 1000. Grindley, in fact, teaches away from such combinations in that, at page 2, column 2, lines 28-32, Grindley teaches that when the polyisocyanate is reacted with a combination of a triol and a diol, the diol may have a molecular weight of from 1000 to 3000 and the triol may have a molecular weight of 100 to 500 (i.e., less than 1000). Grindley therefore teaches away from the claims as presently amended. Similarly, Applicants' combination of diols and triols are not taught or suggested by Ganster.

Of even greater importance is the fact that Grindley neither teaches nor suggests the surprising advantages that Applicants have achieved by using a catalyst or catalyst mixture comprising bismuth carboxylate or a bismuth carboxylate derivative. The use of this catalyst has a profound influence on the adhesive force Applicants can achieve with their adhesive (page 10, lines 16-24).

The rejection of claims Claims 1-3, 6, 10-14 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Grindley (GB 1216672) in view of Ganster (US 6,191,216) should therefore now be withdrawn.

Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grindley (GB 1216672) in view of Ganster (US 6,191,216) and in further view of Clemens (US 6,518,359).

The Examiner turns to Clemens for a DMC catalyst. A DMC catalyst will not in any way overcome the differences pointed out above, however. The rejection of

claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Grindley in view of Ganster and further in view of Clemens should therefore now be withdrawn.

Claims 7-9 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grindley in view of Ganster and in further view of Schumann (EP 1095993).

The Examiner relies on Schumann for mixing components in a nozzle. Mixing in a nozzle will not in any way overcome the differences discussed above between the present invention and the disclosures of the Grindly and Ganster references, and the rejection of claims 7-9 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Grindly in view of Ganster and further in view of Schumann (EP 1095993) should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3 and 6-19 stand provisionally rejected for obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-8 of copending application serial number 10/816,277. This rejection is believed to be overcome by the accompanying Terminal Disclaimer.

In view of the present remarks it is believed that claims 1-19 are now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of said claims by the Examiner is respectfully requested and the allowance thereof is courteously solicited.

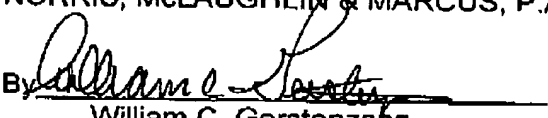
CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

If any extension of time for this response is required, Applicants request that this be considered a petition therefor. Please charge the required petition fee to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

ADDITIONAL FEE

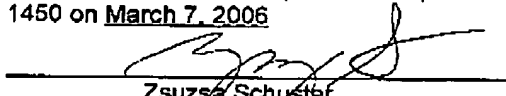
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Respectfully submitted,
NORRIS, McLAUGHLIN & MARCUS, P.A.

By 
William C. Gerstenzahg
Reg. No. 27,552

WCG/zas
Enclosure – Terminal Disclaimer (2 pages)
875 Third Avenue - 18th Floor
New York, New York 10022
(212) 808-0700

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Zsuzsa Schuster
Date March 7, 2006